

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00804 221509Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /079 W

-----019179 221511Z /53

O R 221435Z APR 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7151

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L C A P E T O W N 804

DEPT PASS SECDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: THE STATE OF PLAY

1. ON THE EVE OF THE LONDON MEETING OF THE FIVE FOREIGN
MINISTERS, THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE SAG IS CLOSE TO SOME
KIND OF DECISION ON THE NAMIBIA PROPOSAL AND THAT THE
PRINCIPAL INFLUENCES AT PLAY RIGHT NOW ARE THE POLITICAL
INFIGHTING IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP AND THE REQUIREMENTS
OF THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE (DTA) IN NAMIBIA.
BOTH OF THESE INFLUENCES WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WESTERN
RESPONSE TO THE SAG'S REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ON SECURITY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00804 221509Z

FOR NAMIBIA DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. AT THE MOMENT,
THE CABINET IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP THE NAMIBIA QUESTION ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 25.

2. ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN HAS BEEN IN CAPE TOWN
THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS FOR MEETINGS WITH BOTHA AND
FOURIE AND POSSIBLY OTHERS. HE PRESUMABLY HAS GIVEN AT

LEAST A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE VIEWS OF THE INTERNAL PARTIES AND GROUPS IN NAMIBIA. DEPENDING ON WHAT COMES OUT OF THE LONDON MEETING ON SUNDAY, BOTHA MAY WISH TO HAVE FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH NAMIBIAN LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE DTA. IF SO, ANY DEFINITIVE CABINET DECISIONS IN THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE PUSHED BACK BEYOND ITS APRIL 25 MEETING.

3. BRAND FOURIE TOLD US APRIL 21 THAT THE DAT CONTINUES TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. THE DTA IS REMAINING CLOSE-MOUTHED REGARDING THE VIEWS IT PRESENTED TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL EARLIER THIS WEEK. IN PUBLIC COMMENTS, HOWEVER, MUDGE HAS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL IS "NOT UNACCEPTABLE," ALTHOUGH THERE REMAIN "CERTAIN ASPECTS" WHICH MUST BE CLEARED UP. IN ADDITION TO SEEKING ASSURANCES ON THE QUESTION OF SECURITY, MUDGE IS LIKELY ALSO TO INSIST THAT ANY SAG ACCEPTANCE OF THE PLAN BE CONDITIONED ON A TIME LIMIT FOR INITIATION OF THE PROCESS.

4. THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE CABINET IS UNCERTAIN. IT SEEMS REASONABLY CLEAR THAT THE INTENSIFYING SUCCESSION STRUGGLE HAS INFLUENCED MANEUVERING WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP ON THE NAMIBIA ISSUE. DEFENSE MINISTER P.W. BOTHA'S BELABORING OF THE 1975/76 ANGOLA ADVENTURE (CAPE TOWN 786 AND 765) SUGGESTS HE IS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF WESTERN RELIABILITY IN THE NAMIBIAN CONTEXT. FOURIE ALSO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00804 221509Z

TOLD US THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EFFORT TO OBLIGE PIK BOTHA TO PRESENT HIS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CABINET YESTERDAY, APRIL 21, IN THE MIDST OF THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S ATTEMPT TO STIR UP DOUBTS. THE MOVE WAS FORESTALLED BY THE NEED TO AWAIT THE LONDON MEETING OF THE FIVE.

5. IN HIS PLEAS FOR WESTERN HELP, PIK BOTHA MAY BE OVERDRAMATIZING THE SITUATION, BUT WHATEVER HIS MOTIVATIONS AND INTENTIONS, HE WANTS AS STRONG A COMMITMENT AS POSSIBLE OUT OF THE FIVE FOR USE WITH HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES AND THE DTA. (BOTHA TOLD BRITISH AMBASSADOR SCOTT TODAY HE HAD PHONED DAVID OWEN TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE RESPONSE OF THE FIVE BY MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 24.)

6. THE DIE MAY IN FACT ALREADY BE CAST, BUT THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT IT IS NOT. VORSTER WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR. IN HIS MOST RECENT PUBLIC REMARKS ON THE SUBJECT, HE LAID DOWN THREE BROAD CONDITIONS, ALL OF WHICH HE WAS WELL AWARE WERE ALREADY ACCOMMODATED BY THE WESTERN PROPOSAL, THEREBY SEEING TO INDICATE THAT HE WAS HOLDING OPEN THE DOOR TO ACCEPTANCE (CAPE TOWN 746). THE AFRIKAANS PRESS HAS ALSO PREPARED THE PUBLIC FOR THE

POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT. SO THE SCENE APPEARS TO BE SET FOR THE SAG TO GO EITHER WAY. THE PRIME MINISTER, IN HIS USUAL STYLE, WILL GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO PRESERVING THE UNITY AND COHESION OF THE NATIONALIST LEADERSHIP ON THIS MAJOR ISSUE. IN THIS SITUATION, THE RESPONSE OF THE FIVE ON SECURITY, WHILE NOT NECESSARILY DECISIVE, COULD WEIGH IMPORTANTLY IN THE BALANCE.

NELSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780172-0676
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780428/aaaaaxpe.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c1a54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2882321
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: THE STATE OF PLAY
TAGS: PDEV, WA
To: USUN NEW YORK STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c1a54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014